

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting
December 6, 2000
2:00PM
Room 433, Blatt Building

Members Present: Mr. Barnet, Mrs. Berry, Senator Bryan, Dr. Everson, Dr. Gummerson, Mr. Martin, Mr. McTeer, Senator Matthews, Senator Setzler, Mr. Smith, Mr. Staton, Superintendent Tenenbaum, Mrs. Thompson, Representative Townsend, Mr. Wilson

I. Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Barnet welcomed members and guests to the meeting, noting the critical nature of the work before the Committee at this meeting. He called attention to materials at the desk, including correspondence on the proposed ratings criteria.

II. Approval of the Minutes of November 16

The minutes of November 16 as distributed at the meeting were approved.

III. Subcommittee Reports

A. Academic Standards and Assessments: Mr. Wilson reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. Through a detailed presentation he outlined the work implementing the accountability system to date and the processes by which the ratings proposal were developed. He summarized the public hearing. He recommended approval of the ratings proposal with three amendments and another recommendation regarding retention. The recommendations for amendments are the following:

1. Alter the phase-in of rigor to provide the same criteria for 2001, 2002 and 2003 and escalating thereafter as outlined in the document;
2. Develop a composite rating that reflects both the absolute performance and the improvement performance; and
3. Should funding not be appropriated for technical assistance, schools earning absolute ratings of Below Average or Unsatisfactory would have that rating designated as "Delayed".

The fourth recommendation dealt with retention. Mr. Wilson explained that the Subcommittee is contacting researchers in the field of grade repetition to gain advice on effective interventions, including but not limited to mandatory after school and summer programs and a transition grade experience. A detailed report is to be provided to the EOC in January or February.

EOC members discussed the report in detail. Members asked for greater detail on the statistical methodology, with particular attention to increased sensitivity to improvement gains and the treatment of students with disabilities tested out-of-level in the absolute rating. There was extended discussion of the need for resources to provide technical assistance and the time necessary for change.

The members of the Committee approved the ratings criteria with the three amendments proposed by the Subcommittee.

- B. EIA and Improvement Mechanisms: Mr. Staton reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. He outlined the process of EIA budget review and the information studied by members of the Subcommittee. He indicated the Subcommittee is recommending inflationary increases in programs serving students directly, re-alignment of programs by moving some within the EIA funding and others to alternate revenue sources and a greater focus on schools identified as Below Average or Unsatisfactory.

He indicated that the review process was extensive and identified a number of programs for non-EIA funding or reduction in the requested increases. These included programs that were unable to define their progress, programs targeted toward a very small population, not educational programs, programs that are a core educational service that should be funded within the Education Finance Act or other revenue streams.

He outlined changes in the provisos to support the Subcommittee's recommendations.

The members of the Committee approved the funding and proviso recommendations as proposed by the Subcommittee.

- C. Parent Involvement: Mrs. Thompson reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. A staff group is identifying recommendations for business incentives. Senator Matthews asked that the Middle Grades Task Force recommendations on parenting be reviewed.
- D. Public Awareness: Mr. Smith reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. He indicated that a number of EOC members and staff had tested two formats for community meetings earlier in the week. The Public Awareness Subcommittee is scheduled to meet immediately following the meeting.
- E. Staff and Administration: Mr. Barnet reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. The EOC confirmed the legislative recommendations.

Mr. Barnet summarized the work of the long-range planning group.

Dr. Anderson outlined the plan for evaluating the impact of the methodology in the ratings.

IV. Remarks from a Key Constituency

Due to the lateness of the hour, Mr. Barnet deferred the report until the January meeting.

V. General Discussion

Mr. Townsend invited the EOC to meet with the House Education Committee at a January meeting.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.